

12-11-1942

With the Colors 12-11-1942

Newton Illinois Public Library

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/with_the_colors_1942

Recommended Citation

Newton Illinois Public Library, "With the Colors 12-11-1942" (1942). 1942. 29.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/with_the_colors_1942/29

This is brought to you for free and open access by the With the Colors: Jasper County IL Servicemen Overseas, 1941-1945 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1942 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.



With the *Dec. 11* Colors *1942*

Robert C. Ochs, Thirteenth Squadron, First A. C. Ferrying Group, A. P. O. 629, care Postmaster New York, New York, writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Ochs of near Newton, from India as follows:

"November 13—Today is Friday, the 13th. I thought I'd better write you and tell you everything is o. k. In fact, I can't tell today from yesterday. I think its been about a week since I have written home. Everything is about the same except I am a little more settled in my new home.

"I don't do any housework any more. Natives are hired to do everything. They make up my bed in the morning, sweep the barracks and keep it cleaned up. They take care of my laundry, too. Indian soldiers pull most of the guard here and we have about a dozen on k. p.

"Today is a nice clear day. The nights are damp and actually cold. I I freeze with three blankets. The days are very short and around noon it gets pretty hot. I think in the summer it gets up as high as 130 degrees in the shade. The mosquitoes and ants are bad here.

"There are lots of jackals, but wild animals stay in the foothills of the mountains, where the jungles are very dense. I haven't received any more mail since that last letter from sis when she sent me her picture. We have a movie here every Sunday night."

"November 18—Another day has rolled around. I have just eaten supper and am sitting on my bunk where I have pushed my mosquito net back. Right above hangs an electric light. It is certainly drawing those hungry insects. I can see a few sprawled out on the straw carpets before me where they and I have tangled.

"In front of me across the aisle of this bamboo hut is a window and through it comes some sweet music from an electric phonograph in the orderly room. My bay of the barracks is all vacated except for me. All of the mosquito nets are down on the two rows of beds. It reminds me of the berths on a train as I look down the aisle.

"In the room next to me I can see a couple of boys writing letters and I can hear a few talking about home. India doesn't get talked about much here. The people are more or less servants and not so independent as they were where we came from. It is still warm from the heat of the day; soon a breeze will come down off of those snowy mountains and the rest of the night will be cold. It comes just like someone opened a door back home in the wintertime. Then is when I go to bed and cover up."

Robert left the United States last March, arriving in India last May. He has been transferred to a new base since October 1. He is in an Army Transport Command, located somewhere in India.

* * * * *

Private John Schuch Jr. of Scott field, Belleville, who is studying radio, writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Schuch of near Newton: "How's this for good weather? We had about four inches of snow yesterday. Everyone has been throwing snowballs all day today. This is against the rules, so this evening for punishment we had a snowball fight, our squadron against the 371st. You can't imagine about 500 men lined up on each side, then starting a snowball fight.

"When the first whistle blew to start firing, the air was so full of snowballs that it was like large hail. We all wore our helmets so no one would get killed. In about the first ten minutes, I looked around to get another handful of snow and only saw about 50 men around me. The rest of our squadron were running for their barracks. After that it was pitiful, only 50 of us left to fight 500. Well we took an awful beating, and most of us have proof of it. For instance, I don't think you would recognize me right now. My nose is out of order, and my eye unnatural. I at least have the consolation knowing some of the 371st are suffering from my snowballs, too. Those of our squadron who ran are catching it. You can see if it had been an actual battle how they deserve to catch it."

His address is Private John Schuch Jr., 369th T. S. S., Barracks 208, Scott Field, Illinois.

* * * * *

Sergeant James Lee Diel, son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Diel of Newton, is a member of Company E, 506th Infantry (parachute), Fort Benning, Georgia. The regiment made a forced march of 115 miles in three days recently in toughening practice. Colonel Robert P. Sink, commanding

officer, said the march was "unparalleled in continental American history in many years." They marched in full war equipment and every man finished. The route was from the camp base at Toccoa, Georgia, to Atlanta, Georgia, via fields, paths and highways. Observers said the average of nearly forty miles a day equals anything the Japs could do.

* * * * *

James E. Thompson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Thompson of Newton, writes from the Solomons: "I received my Christmas boxes o. k. and they were swell, but didn't last long here. These guys are like a bunch of wolves, just waiting for some prey. We had an awful nice Thanksgiving dinner with turkey and all that goes with it, but would rather been home and had a hamburger.

"I hope you all have a nice Christmas. I guess mine will be all right, but it could be a lot better. Everybody seems to think that the war will be over before long. I sure hope so. Don't forget we are sure giving those Japs hell."

His address is James E. Thompson, Aviation Machinists Mate, Third Class, Fleet Air Wing Two, Headquarters squadron, care Fleet Post-office, San Francisco, California. He has a birthday January 1.

* * * * *

Colonel Oscar L. Rogers, commanding officer of the Army Air Forces Technical school, Madison, Wisconsin, announced Thursday that Dorris E. Scott of Newton was promoted from corporal to sergeant, because of "special trust and confidence in his fidelity and abilities." Colonel Rogers stated further, "as sergeant, he is to discharge his duties carefully and diligently, and all soldiers under his command are directed to be obedient to his orders." Sergeant Scott is a son of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Scott of Newton.

* * * * *

Arthur Cunefare of near Gila is in receipt of a letter from his son, Arlen, who is in the United States Navy aboard a destroyer, U. S. S. Carry, stating that he was back in port, well and happy, after being in the North African campaign. His ship was on duty around Casablanca. He said his ship never received a scratch or lost a man.

* * * * *

The Rev. Harold Y. Slaten, pastor of Grace Methodist church of Newton from 1935 to 1937, has been commissioned a first lieutenant in the Army Chaplain Corps, after a course of instruction at Harvard university, Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was presented a small communion service by Bishop A. W. Leonard of Washington, D. C., for use in the field.

* * * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Brown of Bogota vicinity are in receipt of a letter from their son, Lowell Willard Brown, stating that he had arrived at Jacksonville, Florida, where he will attend a Navy Air Force Technical school. His address is Class A-1, Barracks 66, T-squadron 6MAD-NAS, Jacksonville, Florida. He is in the United States Marine Corps.

* * * * *

Marion Hall, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hall of near West Liberty, is in a convalescent hospital at Shepard field, Wichita Falls, Texas, following treatment for a broken right arm and a slight skull fracture, he wrote his parents this week. It was the first they knew of his injury. He is getting along nicely.

* * * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Harry O. Garner of near Latona are in receipt of a letter from their son, William Garner, seaman first class, United States Navy, stating that he witnessed the launching of the U. S. S. New Jersey, the world's largest warship, Monday. He was on land for the first time in thirty-three days.

* * * * *

Private Delbert C. Nix, Company G, 130th Infantry, A. P. O. 33, Fort Lewis, Washington, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Coelestin Nix of near Wendelin, writes he likes Army life, and states of Washington would be a great place to live if it didn't rain so much. The scenery is very beautiful.

* * * * *

George A. Eaton, who is stationed in the Hawaiian Islands," has been promoted to corporal. He is with the Fortieth Signal Company.

His address is Corporal George A. Eaton, Fortieth Signal Company, A. P. O. 40, care Postmaster, San Francisco, California.

* * * * *

Warrant Officer Steele Elkin is visiting his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. A. Ray Elkin of Newton. He has been in the Regular Army for many years and is being retired. He has been stationed near Los Angeles recently.

* * * * *

Private Lowell Cramer, 305th Air Base squadron, Marshall field, Kansas, is visiting his wife at Newton on a short furlough.

* * * * *

Don Ward, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Ward of Newton, has enlisted in the United States Navy as a flying cadet.